

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01001 172221Z

63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 IO-10 INT-05 EB-07 /032 W

----- 100824

R 171315Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO AMEMBASSY MASERU

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

SECSTATE WASHDC 4017

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1001

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, SF, LT

SUBJECT: REGIONAL MINERALS OFFICER VISIT TO LESOTHO

REF: A) MASERU 418 (NOTAL); B) JOHANNESBURG 482 (NOTAL)

FOR HAUGHT FROM SWEETWOOD:

1. MINERALS OFFICER SWEETWOOD CURRENTLY PLANS VISIT TO LESOTHO (REF A) ABOUT JULY 30 - AUGUST 6 IF AMEMBASSY MASERU PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION AND IF THIS APPROXIMATE TIMING APPEARS TO BE SUITABLE. SWEETWOOD HOPES TO MEET WITH COMMISSIONER OF MINES MALHOTRA AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AND/OR PRIVATE INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE, FOR BRIEFINGS ON RECENT MINERALS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA. YOUR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETINGS IN THIS REGARD WILL BE SINCERELY APPRECIATED. ADDITIONALLY, EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS ON MINERALS REPORTING AND RELATED TOPICS WILL BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

2. FYI: WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL REPORTS (UNCONFIRMED) THAT THE UN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROJECT (UNDER MALHOTRA) IN LESOTHO HAS MET WITH SOME PRELIMINARY SUCCESS AS TO POSSIBLE MINERAL OCCURRENCES OF ECONOMIC INTEREST. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, TO ASSESS PROGRESS TO DATE IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE AMERICAN-COMPANY INVESTMENT IN THE AREA EVENTUALLY. FIELD TRIPS TO EACH IMPORTANT AREA WILL BE PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE; HOPEFULLY UNDER MALHOTRA'S GUIDANCE IF, IN YOUR VIEW, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD NOT SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

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SWEETWOOD HAS NOT WRITTEN TO MALHOTRA DIRECTLY (REF B) BECAUSE

OF THE REQUIRED POSTPONEMENT OF THIS VISIT (FROM JUNE TO, SAY, JULY/AUGUST) AND BECAUSE AN INITIAL CONTACT BY THE EMBASSY APPEARS TO BE THE MORE APPROPRIATE APPROACH IN THIS INSTANCE. INCIDENTALLY, IT IS REALIZED THAT WEATHER AND ROAD CONDITIONS IN THE BACK COUNTRY MAY WELL BE OF CONCERN, FIELD TRIP-WISE, AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR." SWEETWOOD PLANS TRAVEL TO MASERU, AND BEYOND, VIA FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE (INTERNATIONAL CARRYALL), HOWEVER, TO PERMIT MOVEMENT UNDER AT LEAST MODERATELY-SEVERE ROAD CONDITIONS IF REQUIRED. END FYI.

3. PLEASE ADVISE IF ABOVE-PROPOSED DATES APPEAR SATISFACTORY, AND IF GENERAL ITINERARY SEEMS WORKABLE.
GUTHRIE

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